

# **COMPETITIVE SOURCING/A-76 NEWSLETTER**

## **JANUARY 2001**

### **PARTNERING**

Partnering between the Government and the private sector continues to receive emphasis from the highest levels of the Civil Engineering community. HQ USAF/ILE, in the December 2000 issue of the SAME News, wrote about the emergence of a “partnering spirit” in governmental and non-governmental engineering communities. The article can be accessed at [www.same.org](http://www.same.org).

### **ANNUAL PARTNERING MEETING**

The annual CE, Contracting, and Industry Partnering Meeting has been postponed due to the current relook of the A-76 program by the Secretary of the Air Force-chartered Air Staff Tiger Team. The workshop will be rescheduled later this year. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

### **SHARE A-76!**

The SHARE A-76! web site at <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/inst/share.nsf> was developed by Office of the Secretary of Defense to provide a repository for A-76 information. It links all A-76 related issues contained in internal and external web sites. SHARE A-76 contains information from the Department of Defense (DoD) perspective as well as other service components and field agencies. The web site highlights both general processes and specific step-by-step information in a format that is user friendly. The Share A-76 web site capabilities follow:

- Links to AFCEA web site and other A-76 sites
- Step-by-step process model
- Frequently asked questions
- Policy, guidance and reference material for each component and links to their web sites
- Policy and guidance from DoD and Office of Management and Budget
- Detailed information about each step in the Cost Comparison process
- Search capability of a knowledge base that allows personnel to find specific information and documents
- Library, glossary and acronyms
- Points of contact for each component and field agency
- Site for personnel to share information and lessons learned
- “What’s Hot”

SHARE A-76! assists field technicians in developing the documents needed to complete a Cost Comparison. Contracting and personnel officials use the site to find resource

information. The Process model steps the reader through the A-76 process from public announcement to the decision. The “What’s Hot” feature provides the latest DoD information and guidance on the program.

The SHARE A-76! web site has many innovations to assist the field with the Cost Comparison process. It is designed for all organizational levels but is mainly focused on helping unit personnel understand the process and provide the units with the most current information to ultimately improve the process.

## **MEO AUDITS**

The Air Force Audit Agency conducted audits of six Most Efficient Organizations (MEOs) to determine whether the in-house organizations (MEOs) were implemented in a timely manner, operated with the in-house cost estimates, and performed work as stated in the statements of work (SOW). For more information, access the Air Force Audit Agency’s web site is at [www.afaa.hq.af.mil](http://www.afaa.hq.af.mil).

The report showed that the Air Force implemented the MEOs in a timely fashion and completed the restructuring necessary to achieve efficiencies. However, two of the six organizations did not operate within the in-house cost estimate or perform the work as required by the SOW.

All restructuring necessary to achieve expected efficiencies was completed within the required six months after selection and in some cases as quickly as six weeks. Four of the six activities achieved the expected savings. However, two MEOs exceeded estimated operating costs by 14 and 45 percents. Two MEOs did not accomplish the SOW requirements and a third MEO did not retain data to assess their work. The result is that the Air Force did not receive the level of effort promised in the MEO.

The audit’s bottom line is that the units need to work harder to stay within costs and to perform the work as specified in the SOW. The key is training, training, training!!

## **DOD A-76 HANDBOOKS**

DoD is finalizing the new handbooks that cover the A-76 process. The DoD team for this project included experts on A-76 from OSD, the service components, and the private sector. The handbooks are written in generic terms to be supplemented by each service component. The eight handbooks and a Costing Manual include:

- DoD A-76 Handbook #1 – Component Centralized Management Techniques that Improve the Cost Comparison Process

- DoD-76 Handbook #2 – Getting Started

- Do A-76 Handbook #3 - Acquisition Actions

- DoD A-76 Handbook #4 – Developing the Performance Work Statement (PWS) and Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP)

- DoD A-76 Handbook #5 – Developing the Government Management Plan

- DoD A-76 Handbook #6 – Human Resources Actions

DoD A-76 Handbook #7 – Public Review and Administrative Appeals  
DoD A-76 Handbook # 8 – Making the Cost Comparison Decision and Post A-76  
Actions  
DoD Manual on A-76 Costing

The draft Manual and Handbooks are available on the Share A-76 web site at <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/inst/share.nsf>.

**ASSISTANCE:** For help in planning your A-76 or Direct Conversion call the HQ AFCEA A-76 Help Desk at DSN 523-4970 or e-mail: [A-76Desk@tynfl.TRW.com](mailto:A-76Desk@tynfl.TRW.com). The A-76 Help Desk consists of three full-time professionals with extensive experience in the competitive sourcing/A-76 process: an engineer, a contracting specialist, and a manpower expert. They operate from AFCEA to provide A-76 support services including, but not limited to, the following:

- Answering competitive sourcing/A-76 related questions.
- Providing technical advice to A-76 CE Steering Committee members.
- Assisting in developing acquisition strategies.
- Providing guidance on new acquisition procedures.
- Reviewing statements of work, quality assurance plans, and management plans.
- Maintaining a repository of lessons learned from CE activities.